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CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY

ISSUE DEFINITION

Canada's participation in the international French-speaking community, a cornerstone of federal government policy, extends national bilingualism to the international scene. An examination of Canada's role in the international French-speaking community at this time seems very appropriate in view of the Summit of French-speaking nations held from 17 to 19 February 1986. The Summit will likely give added impetus to the activities of international Francophone institutions. This Current Issue Review will focus on the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (AGECOOP), the mainspring of the international Francophone community. It will also examine the proceedings of the first Francophone Summit.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

In addition to AGECOOP, Canada also participates in the activities of two other international Francophone organizations - the Conference of Ministers of Education and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of French-speaking countries. The Canadian government also supports various private international Francophone associations, in particular The Association of Partially or Wholly French-language Universities (AUPELF), and the International Association of French-speaking Parliamentarians (AIPLF).

The Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (AGECOOP)

A. The Creation of the Agency

  1. Background

         The idea of a French-speaking community was first proposed by President Senghor of Senegal. Two other African leaders, Presidents Bourguibä of Tunisia and Houphouët-Boigny of the Ivory Coast, soon lent their support to the project. President Diori Hamani of Niger and Montreal journalist Jean-Marc Léger played important roles in the creation of AGECOOP.

         The first Conference of the French-speaking Community took place at Niamey in Niger in February 1969. Ottawa and Quebec were both invited to Niger. Quebec sought acceptance for the concept of "two delegations" within "a representation from Canada," but Ottawa did not acknowledge the validity of this idea.

         The Niamey deliberations resulted in the adoption of a resolution in which the delegates agreed on the desirability of an organization for multilateral cultural and technical co-operation between their countries and recommended to their governments the establishment of such an organization. Among other things, the agreement provided that President Diori would be responsible for setting up a provisional secretariat whose mandate for the following six months was to prepare a constitution and define the purpose of the proposed organization. The provisional secretariat was headed by Jean-Marc Léger who, as Secretary-General of AUPELF, had already played a prominent role in the French-speaking non-governmental agencies.

  2. The Inaugural Conference

         In November 1969, once the major outlines of the project had been defined, the President of Niger sent out invitations to the countries which had participated in the first conference, except that this time Quebec was not directly invited, but simply informed. Several days before the Conference began, the Quebec Premier, Jean-Jacques Bertrand, announced that an election would be held; consequently, Quebec was represented in

Niamey by Julien Chouinard, Secretary-General of the Cabinet. As a public servant, he had to work discreetly within the terms of the agreement reached at the last minute between the Prime Minister and the Quebec Premier.

The delegates from the 25 countries represented at this Second General Conference of the French-speaking Community met again in Niamey on 15 March 1970. France at once signalled its opposition to the Agency's proposed constitution, because its adoption would have meant that Quebec could not become a member of the Agency, but would have to act through Ottawa. The French delegation immediately circulated a counter-proposal, which provided that full membership in the agency was open to ordinary cultural organizations and, of course, governments of any kind. The chairman of the Canadian delegation, Mr. Gérard Pelletier, stated that Canada, which would be responsible for 32.4% of the new Agency's budget, was ready to use every means available to make the Agency a true instrument for co-operation, but that it refused to be placed on an equal footing with just any association on the pretext that such association was concerned with matters coming under the Agency's jurisdiction.

A goodwill committee, created by the African countries, finally reach a compromise between the French and Canadian government positions. This text, which became article 3.3 of the agency's Charter, states:

> With due respect for the sovereignty and international jurisdiction of member states, any government may be admitted to the institutions, activities and programs of the Agency as a participating government, subject to the approval of the member state representing the territory over which the participating government in question exercises its authority, and according to procedures agreed upon between the latter government and that of the member state.

It only remained for the delegates to sign the Convention establishing the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation and giving recognition to the existence of member states and associate states. The first article of the Convention specified that it was "to be the expression

of a new solidarity and an additional means of bringing people together through a permanent flow of exchanges between the civilizations represented." The Charter was added as an appendix to the Convention, and provided a fuller definition of its fundamental objectives: "the essential purpose of the Agency is to strengthen and develop multilateral co-operation among its members in the areas of education, culture, science and technology, and thereby bring peoples together."

Some 20 countries signed the document: Belgium, Burundi, Cameroun, Canada, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, France, Gabon, Upper Volta, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Chad, Tunisia and the Republic of Viet-Nam (Saigon). Morocco, Laos and Cambodia did not sign the Convention, but indicated that they were interested in the Agency's work. Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba participated in signing the Convention, adding their signatures beneath that of the Federal Government.

The assembly then became the First General Conference of the Agency. The Canadian delegate, Jean-Marc Léger, was elected SecretaryGeneral, assisted by two Assistant Secretaries-General, from France and Togo. In addition to the Secretariat, the Charter provided for a General Conference (an executive body of the Agency which was to organize biennial meetings of delegations from member states at the ministerial level), a Board of Directors, a Programs Committee, an Advisory Council and the establishment of other groups considered useful.

B. The Ottawa-Quebec Agreement on Quebec's Participation in the Agency

As stipulated in Article 3.3 of the Agency's Charter, the Federal and Quebec Governments were to reach an agreement regarding the nature of Quebec's participation in the Agency. This agreement, entitled "Terms and Conditions under which the Government of Quebec is admitted as a participating government to the institutions, activities and programs of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, agreed upon on 1 October 1971 between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec," was concluded on the eve of the agency's Second General Conference, which took place in Ottawa and Quebec City. It comprises 19

articles and a preamble which refers to Article 3.3 of the Agency's Charter.

The status of participating government enables the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick (which received this status in 1977) to be recognized as such within the Canadian delegation; to have a seat and a nameplate at the discussion table, with the right to take the floor; and to communicate with the Agency directly about matters of program organization. The two provincial governments participate also in the Agency's budget.[1] Article 16 allows the participating governments exceptional opportunities to act, since it authorizes them to take part in the activities and programs of the Agency and to assist with the implementation of programs in co-operation with the Secretariat, according to the conditions and terms agreed upon in each case with the Government of Canada.

C. Agency Activities

1. Regular Programs

The draft biennial program for 1986-87 submitted to the Board of Directors and to the Tenth General Conference at the Dakar meetings last December outlined the Agency's program activities in three major areas (scientific and technical co-operation, culture and education) as well as five programs which cut across a number of sectors (co-operation, training, publishing, information and planning), solidarity initiatives and the activities of the regional office in Lomé. The proposed budget for 1986-87 breaks down as follows: scientific and technical co-operation - 20.14%; culture - 20.31%; education - 21.21%; co-operation - 5.97%; training - 21.58%; publishing - 2.14%; information and public relations - 3.04%; planning - .42%; solidarity activities - 4.63%; Lomé office - .56%.

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(1) Canada contributes approximately 35% of the Agency's total operating funds (31.4% from the federal government, 3% from the Quebec government, and .3% from the New Brunswick government).

The proposed budgets for 1986 and 1987 totalled 51,854,250 French francs[1] and 56,418,657 French francs respectively, for a combined total of 108,272,907FF. The new budget proposals represented an increase of 25.46% for 1986 and of 8.8% for 1987. The substantial budget increase proposed for 1986 was due in part to the austerity measures that had affected the program's budget, in 1985 in particular.[2] However, since the Tenth General Conference limited the Agency's annual budget increase to 3.5%, the Secretary General will have to amend the suggested programming for 1986-87.

2. The Special Development Program (SDP)

At AGECOOP's Fourth General Conference in Mauritius in November 1975, Canada promoted the creation of a Special Development Program, to be financed by voluntary contributions kept separate from the Agency's operating budget. France opposed the idea on the grounds that the Agency would be deviating from its mandate if it became involved in development. The Canadian position ultimately won the day thanks to the support of the African countries, which insisted that development can no longer be dissociated from culture.

The role of the SDP is to assist member states to cope with unforeseen temporary difficulties they encounter in carrying out their national development plans, solutions for which are not necessarily available or provided for in the regular programs of either the Agency or other international bodies. The SDP gives priority to requests from poorer countries and to those likely to have a multiplier effect. It meets urgent needs expressed by member countries and carries out specific and short-term projects. It is flexible and rapid, and the ongoing nature of its programming allows it to respond to requests at any time.

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(1) The Canadian dollar was valued at approximately 6.5FF when the 1986-87 budget was adopted in December 1985.

(2) The 1985 draft program budget prepared for the General Conference meeting in December 1983 totalled 66,900,000FF. However, austerity measures forced the Agency to readjust its programming budget downward to 39,300,000FF.

Since it started operations in January 1978, the SDP has launched several thousand projects. In so doing it has responded to requests from nearly all the countries belonging to AGECOOP. Its interventions are mainly in the three areas of scientific and technical co-operation, economic and social development, and the promotion of national languages and cultures. The SDP makes use of three main types of action: technical assistance, especially in a perspective of horizontal co-operation; specialized training for public servants in areas dictated by national needs; and technical studies, especially those with regional implications.

Canada's strong interest in the SDP was demonstrated once again with the announcement of a $1,500,000 contribution for 1985-86. The Canadian authorities estimate that the Special Development Program has enabled the Agency to become an effective instrument of co-operation, in addition to making possible more extensive bilateral and multilateral aid. The SDP also has the great merit of promoting horizontal co-operation among members of AGECOOP.

3. Ministerial Meetings

AGECOOP has become a focus for ministerial meetings in various sectors. The first of these meetings brought together the member states' ministers of science and technology, in Luxembourg (1977). This was followed by the meeting in Paris of the ministers of justice (September 1980) and that of the ministers of agriculture (March 1981). The ministers of culture met in Cotonou, Benin, in September 1981. the ministers responsible for scientific research and higher education gathered for a conference in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, in October 1983. Lastly, the ministers of communications met in Cairo in February 1985. After consulting with his Quebec counterpart, Mr. Jean-Francois Bertrand, the Canadian Minister of Communications, Mr. Marcel Masse, formally invited all communications ministers of French-speaking countries to come to Quebec (in 1986 or 1987) to follow up on the Cairo talks.

These meetings were not tied to the implementation of particular Agency programs, but they did make it possible to confirm certain operational orientations and to elicit further such orientations.

They also brought out the usefulness of closer relations among the member countries.

4. International Relations

From the beginning the Agency has worked continually at developing its international connections. Initially its main partners were the Francophone associations and the two Francophone ministerial conferences: the Conference of Education Ministers and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports. The Agency has multiplied its contacts and in some cases co-operated in activities with UN- and Commonwealth-affiliated organizations. In 1978 it was granted the status of observer at the UN, a decisive step in its progress toward recognition by the international community.

D. Future Prospects

1. Limited Means

When the Convention was signed, on 20 March 1970, AGECOOP had 21 member states. Today it has 30 member states, seven associate states and two participating governments.[1] The membership includes virtually all French-speaking countries, the two major exceptions being Madagascar (a former and possibly a future member) and Algeria. Certain other countries, including Switzerland, have not become members of the Agency but participate occasionally in some of its programs.

Despite the recruitment of new members, the Agency remains an institution of limited financial means. For 1985, the approved Agency budget totalled 108,388,454FF. In December 1983, the General Conference approved an 8% increase in the dues paid by member countries for 1984 and

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(1) Member States: Belgium, Benin, Burundi, Central Africa, Canada, The Comoros, Congo, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, France, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Upper Volta, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zaire. Associated States: Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Laos, Morocco, Mauritania, St. Lucia. Participating Governments: Quebec, New Brunswick.

1985.[1]   It also instructed the Board of Directors to study the possibility of increasing the Agency's resources, if at all possible. At its October 1984 meeting, the Board ascertained that the financial situation of member states made it impossible to consider an additional increase in dues, particularly as more than 15 countries were already behind in their contributions.   In addition to budget cuts affecting regular programs in 1985, the Board of Directors approved measures which would shave one million francs off the operating expenditures forecasts.

The Agency's financial situation continues to be affected by the inability of member countries to contribute sufficiently to operation expenses.   Last December, the General Conference approved an increase of only 3.5% in the Agency's budget for 1986 and 1987.   The Conference also voted to forgive the outstanding payments of several countries going back to the end of 1983 and to reduce by 25% the dues paid by 14 members classified among the less advanced countries.   Countries on a more secure financial footing were invited to contribute more in order to make up for the Conference's decision to forgive outstanding debts.

2.   Revitalization of AGECOOP

AGECOOP has been trying for the past several years to recover its original impetus.   The organization should experience an upswing in activity soon, since delegates to the first Francophone Summit decided to involve AGECOOP in implementing several projects proposed at the Summit meeting.   The Agency will thus receive new orders of reference along with the budget funds required to carry them out.

The First Francophone Summit

The summit of French-speaking communities was held in Paris from 17-19 February 1986.   Forty-one Heads of State and government formally participated in this first Francophone Summit.   The Canadian contingent, which was headed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, was composed of 31

(1)   The dues paid by member countries are supposed to cover at least 90% of the Agency's operating expenditures.

delegates, including Mrs. Monique Vézina, Minister of State for External Relations, Mr. Marcel Masse, Minister of Communications and Mr. Benoît Bouchard, Secretary of State. Representatives of the Ontario and Manitoba governments had been invited to join the Canadian delegation, along with the President of the Federation of Francophones outside Quebec. As member governments of AGECOOP, Quebec and New Brunswick sent respective delegations to the Summit meeting.

The Summit agenda focused on two main areas: the world political and economic situation and cultural and technical co-operation. On day one of the Summit, talks centred on politics and the economy. Topics of discussion included apartheid, disarmament and development, Third World indebtedness and international trade. A communiqué on the world economy was read by the Prime Minister of Canada. Communiqués tabled during the discussion on cultural and technical co-operation proposed concrete projects In the field of technology, specifically in the area of communication and information. Talks also revolved around the topic of the institutions and means of action of la francophonie.

During the public closing ceremonies, President Mitterrand stated that la francophonie had "awakened from an extended sleep" and was now entering a renaissance phase. As general rapporteur for the Summit, Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa summarized the 28 decisions and resolutions adopted by the 41 delegations. He then invited the Heads of State and government to participate in the second Summit in Quebec City. The delegation heads had unanimously agreed beforehand to accept the invitation formally extended by the Government of Canada, although both Canada and Quebec would share the duties of host government.

Among the 28 concrete proposals that were adopted the most striking involved audiovisual telecommunications. It was announced that a true Francophone audiovisual space would be created. Summit participants agreed to set up an international Francophone television agency to ensure that not all televised images in circulation originated in English-speaking countries. In addition, TV-5, a channel that carries programs produced by France, Belgium, Switzerland and a consortium of Francophone television stations in Canada, will be asked to extend its satellite broadcasting to

North America and to the southern hemisphere. In the field of computer technology, the delegates called for an inventory of existing data banks in order to link them together and for the training of specialists in the most disadvantaged countries. With regard to the energy sector, delegates endorsed a Quebec government proposal calling for the creation of a Francophone energy institute to put existing expertise to use in developing coutries.

Canada played a major role at the first Francophone Summit, both in terms of the financial commitments announced and the statements made. Canada promised to contribute $10 million over the next five years toward an immunization program in developing Francophone countries. The Prime Minister also announced the creation of a Canadian scholarship program. A total of 350 scholarships will be awarded to students from Francophone countries. In all, $.7.7 million will be awarded annually to the program, with the funds coming from the public development assistance budget. Lastly, $10 million will be awarded to a program geared to the energy sector in countries of the southern hemisphere. Quebec has agreed to co-operate in this particular program.

Many projects drawn up by Canada gave rise to proposals which were later endorsed by delegates. Ongoing co-operation was the order of the day between the Canadian and Quebec delegations which tabled a number of joint or complementary proposals. Indeed, Canada and Quebec were associated with all of the high-technology projects approved by Summit participants. Canada took full advantage of the opportunities presented by the Summit to assert its leadership within the international French-speaking community.

Delegates to the Paris Summit decided to set up a committee to follow up on the resolutions adopted. As general Summit rapporteur, Quebec will be a member of this follow-up committee. Moreover, responsibility for implementing many of the projects will be turned over to the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation. An extraordinary meeting of AGECOOP is to be convened shortly to assign new orders of reference to the Agency and to approve the budget funds required to carry them out.

The follow-up Committee, which is composed of the personal representatives of the eleven heads of State and Government,[1] held its first meeting on 24 April 1986 in Paris. The Committee was chaired by the French Ambassador, Jacques Leprette, who had also headed the working group in charge of organizing the February Summit activities. The Committee members reviewed the 28 concrete proposals adopted at the Paris Summit. They agreed to call upon the services of four experts, who would be paid by their respective governments, to assist the Committee in its work. The follow-up Committee plans to meet once a month until the Quebec Summit.

CHRONOLOGY

17-20 February 1969 - The Niamey (Niger) Conference, in which Canada took part, laid the foundations for the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (AGECOOP), among partially or entirely French-speaking countries.

16-20 March 1970 - The Second Niamey Conference drew up the Convention and Charter for AGECOOP. Canada signed the Convention, with Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba adding their signatures underneath.

1 October 1971 - The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, and the Quebec Minister of Cultural Affairs, Mr. François Cloutier, announced that they had agreed on a formula which would allow Quebec to participate in AGECOOP. The agreement was entitled "Terms and conditions under which the Government of Quebec is admitted as a participating government to the institutions, activities and programs of the agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, agreed upon 1 October 1971, between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec."

11-17 October 1971 - The Second General Conference of AGECOOP took place in Canada (in Ottawa and Quebec City). This

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(1) Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Comoros, France, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Quebec, Senegal and Zaire.

Conference gave the Agency the necessary procedures and instruments to pursue its aims.

15-20 October 1973 - The Third General Conference of AGECOOP took place in Belgium (in Liège and Brussels). The Secretariat of the Agency was restructured by increasing the number of assistant secretaries-general from two to four (each in charge of a particular sector). It was also decided to increase the Agency's budget by 23% in 1974 and by at least 15% in 1975. Mr. Dankoulodo Dan Dicko, of Niger, was elected Secretary-General and a Canadian was chosen to fill one of the four Assistant Secretary-General positions.

12-15 November 1975 - The Fourth General Conference of AGECOOP was held in Mauritius. Participants sought to give the Agency new means of strengthening and enlarging the scope of its activities.

14-17 December 1977 - The Fifth General Conference of AGECOOP took place in Abidjan. New Brunswick was admitted as a participating government. The outgoing Secretary-General, Mr. Dankoulodo Dan Dicko, along with three of the Assistant Secretaries-General (including one Canadian), was re-elected to another four-year term.

2 November 1978 - Questioned at a press conference concerning the proposal for a summit of heads of state and governments of the French-speaking community, the President of Senegal, Mr. Léopold Senghor, stated in Ottawa that a committee of five experts, which included himself, a representative of France, a representative of Canada and two from Africa, had offered no objection to the holding of a summit conference in which the Government of Quebec would not participate as such. In addition, he indicated that the committee, meeting in Dakar on 10 October, had acknowledged that "the participation of the provinces was under the sole jurisdiction of Canada."

Only a few hours after Mr. Senghor's statement, the French government issued a short press release asserting that it found the idea of holding a summit of French-speaking countries without Quebec's participation unthinkable.

12-15 December 1979 - AGECOOP held its Sixth General Conference at Lomé, in Togo. This conference was to consider proposals for a thorough-going reform of the Agency's Charter

in respect to the collegial structure of the Secretariat (the method of making appointments, the duties and the designation of the principal associates of the Secretary-General), and the operation of the Agency. In the belief that more extensive consideration was called for, the member states proposed that an Extraordinary General Conference be convened in Paris in March 1980.

25-27 March 1980 - An Extraordinary General Conference of AGECOOP took place in Paris to decide on structural changes aimed at simplifying the decision-making process within the Agency's management. Thereafter, the Secretariat would be directed by the Secretary-General acting alone; the collegial structure of the executive would be abolished. As a result of a motion by Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mark MacGuigan, the meeting ended with the unanimous adoption of a solemn political declaration aimed at marking a "new departure" for the Agency.

3 December 1980 - The President of Senegal, Mr. Léopold Senghor, announced the cancellation of the meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of French-speaking countries which was to have been held in Dakar on 8-9 December, "to allow the parties time to reach agreement on the problem of Quebec's representation." President Senghor's announcement followed France's decision to boycott the Dakar meeting because Quebec was dissatisfied with the representation offered it within the Canadian delegation (a senior official rather than a minister). The Dakar meeting was to have prepared the way for a summit conference of heads of state and governments with a view to the creation of a French-speaking community.

7-9 December 1981 - AGECOOP held its Eighth General Conference in Libreville, Gabon. The Gabonese Minister of Culture, Arts and Education, Mr. François Owono Nguéma, was elected Secretary General. Four new countries became members of AGECOOP: Guinea and the Congo as member States and St. Lucia and Morocco as associate States.

24 August 1983 - In a communiqué issued by the Council of Ministers, French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy announced the creation of the Haut conseil de la francophonie (Senior Council of French-speaking Nations) to be chaired by the French Head of State. Foreign members would be invited to sit on the Council. He also announced that the former President of Senegal,

Mr. Léopold Sédar Senghor, had accepted the position of Vice-Chairman of the Council.

9 September 1983 - The Secretary General designate of the Haut conseil de la francophonie, Mr. Stelio Farandjis, stated to the Canadian Press that the Council would be, first and foremost, a forum, a place for defining, developing and promoting the international French-speaking community. He went on to add that the organization could be a step on the road to holding a summit meeting of Francophone countries. Although the member selection process has not yet been finalized, Mr. Farandjis noted that foreign council members would not be government ministers or delegates, but people from the fields of science, literature or technology who would be representative and skilled and whose appointment should not result in any major objections on the part of member countries.

12-14 December 1983 - AGECOOP held its Ninth General Conference in Paris. Specifically, the Conference approved a program and a budget for 1984 and 1985. Egypt joined AGECOOP as an associate state.

17 January 1985 - The French government announced the composition of the Senior Council of French-speaking Nations. Three Canadians will sit on the Council: Messrs Jacques- Yvan Morin, professor and former minister in the Lévesque government, Michel Plourde, Director of the Conseil de langue française du Québec, and Alain Landry, Assistant Under Secretary of State, Official Languages, Secretary of State of Canada.

8 November 1985 - The text of the agreement between the federal and Quebec governments on the Summit of French-speaking countries was made public. The agreement provides that the Summit will consist of two distinct parts, the first dealing with the world's political and economic situation and the second with co-operation and development. The Premier of Quebec will sit beside the Prime Minister at the conference table throughout the Summit, with Quebec identified by the designation "Canada - Québec" and by the Quebec flag. During the first part of the Summit, the Premier will act as an "interested observer," although he will be able to speak on questions that concern Quebec "after consultation and with the agreement of the Prime Minister." During the second part of the Summit, the government of Quebec will participate fully in the debates and the work, in accordance with AGECOOP's methods and practices.

6 December 1985 - The Prime Minister of Canada announced the ratification of an agreement between the federal and New Brunswick governments regarding the Francophone Summit. This agreement is identical in every respect to the one signed with the Quebec government on 8 November.

16-18 December 1985 - AGECOOP held its Tenth General Conference in Dakar, Senegal. Mr. Paul Okumba d'Okouatsegue, Political Adviser to Gabonese President Omar Bongo, was elected by acclamation to the position of Secretary General of the Agency.

15 February 1986 - The Ministers of Foreign Affairs met in Paris to finalize the details of the first Francophone Summit. Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa was appointed general Summit rapporteur.

17-19 February 1986 - The Summit of French-speaking communities was held in Paris. Forty-one Heads of State and government adopted a total of 28 resolutions and decisions. Delegates unanimously agreed to hold their second Summit meeting in Quebec City.

19 February 1986 - The Governments of Canada and Quebec signed a protocol agreement respecting organizational procedures for the second Francophone Summit slated to be held in Quebec City in 1987 or 1988. Canada will be extending the invitation to attend the Summit, but both Canada and Quebec will share the duties of host government. The Prime Minister of Canada will act as general Summit chairman while the Premier of Quebec will chair the second portion of the Summit during which the focus will be on cultural and technical co-operation.

6-15 May 1986 - Using the theme "Le logiciel et ses applications dans les pays francophones" [software and its applications in French-speaking countries], AGECOOP organized a seminar in Montreal jointly with the governments of Canada and Quebec. The activities of the Marché international du logiciel de Montréal [Montreal international software fare] were an integral part of the program for delegates to the seminar. This was the first multilateral follow-up to the Francophone Summit of the previous February.

14 July 1986 - The government of Canada announced the appointment of Mr. Pierre Desrochers, the CBC's vice-president in charge of French television, as network head responsible for communications and the cultural industries within the Francophone Summit's follow-up committee.

3 November 1986 - Mrs. Monique Landry, federal Minister of External Relations, Mr. Gil Rémillard, Quebec's Minister of International Relations, Mr. Lucien Bouchard, Canada's Ambassador to France, and Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, Quebec's Agent-General in France, held a joint press conference to announce the membership of the organizing committee for the second Francophone Summit, to be held in Quebec City on September 2, 3 and 4, 1987. Mr. Bouchard will be the committee's president, and Mr. Roy its vice-president. Mr. Normand Martin, New Brunswick's Deputy Minister of Education, will represent that province. The executive secretary of the joint secretariat will be Mr. Guy Simard.

27 January 1987 - President François Mitterrand appointed the Acadian writer Antonine Maillet to the Haut Conseil de la francophonie.
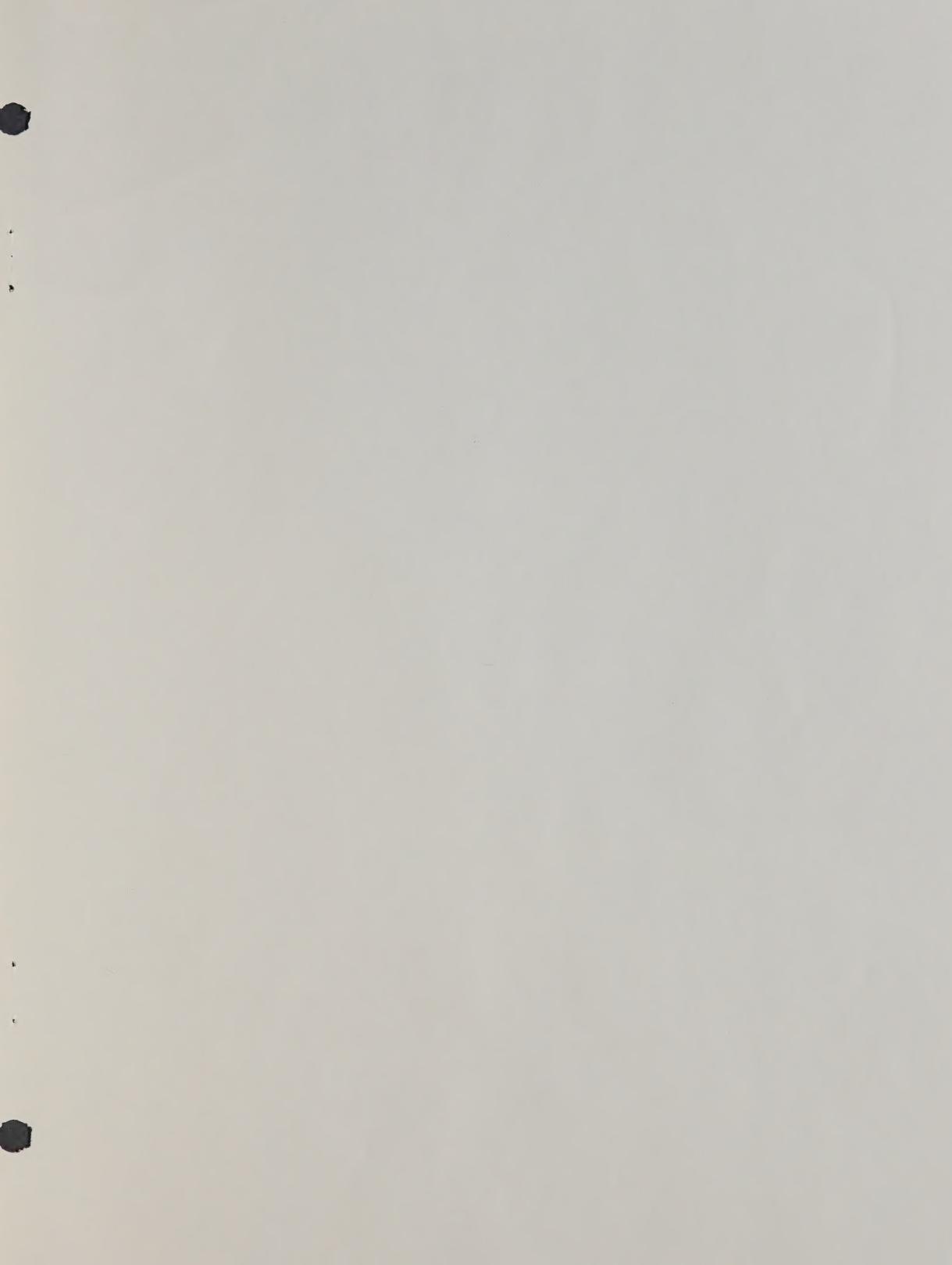
28 January 1987 - Mr. Stelio Farandjis, the Secretary General of the Haut Conseil de la francophonie, announced that this body would hold a special session in Quebec City, to be chaired by Mr. François Mitterrand, immediately following the second Francophone Summit.
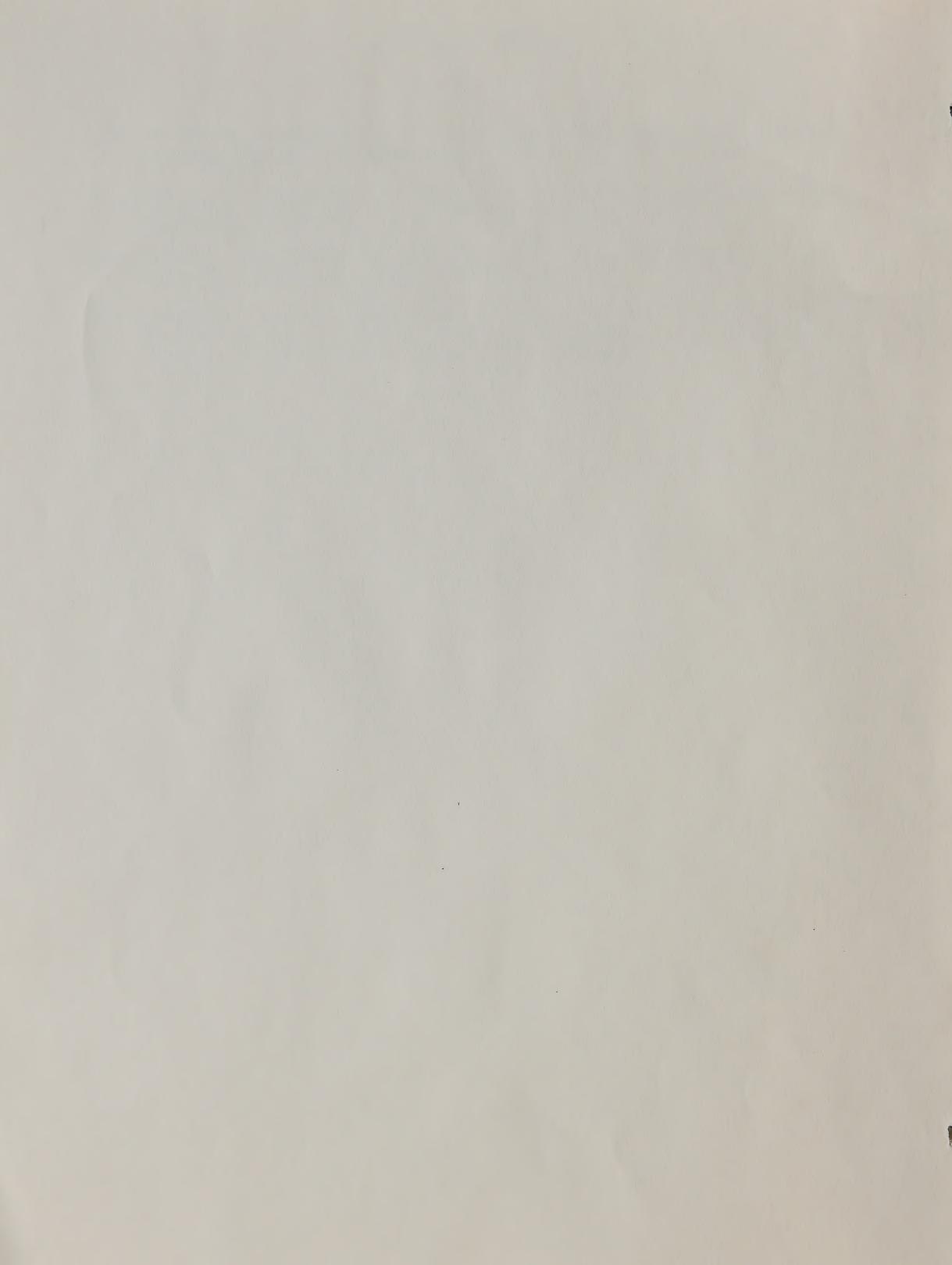
27 February 1987 - The personal representatives of the heads of State and government of the French-speaking communities attended the first preparatory meeting for the Quebec Summit, held at the Canadian Embassy in Paris. The Canadian Ambassador to France, Mr. Lucien Bouchard, was named chairman of this international organizing committee for the Summit; Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, the Quebec Agent-General in France, and Mr. Jacques Leprette, the personal representative of President François Mitterrand, were elected vice-chairmen. The committee will meet once a month, and will prepare the agenda for the Summit.

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